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ABSTRACT

According to data from the Job Corps' Student Pay, Allotment and Management Information System (SPAMIS), approximately 54% of all individuals enrolled in the Job Corps program in 1993 received training in the state where they lived. The extent to which Job Corps participants were served in centers located within their state of residence varied widely by state, however. More than 80% of Job Corps participants residing in Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, and Utah received training in their own state, whereas fewer than 20% of Job Corps participants residing in Alaska, Illinois, South Carolina, and Wisconsin received Job Corps training in their home state. Six states did not have any Job Corps centers operating within their boundaries. The data contained in SPAMIS also confirmed that, as of 1993, Job Corps program capacity varied by state. Six states (Kentucky, Oklahoma, Montana, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia) had more than twice as many available slots as participants, whereas three states (Colorado, Louisiana, and South Carolina) had more than twice as many Job Corps participants as available slots. (MN)

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GAO

United States
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Health, Education and Human Services Division

ED 391 938

B-270457

November 9, 1996

The Honorable William F. Goodling
Chairman, Committee on Economic
and Educational Opportunities
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Labor's Job Corps program, established in 1964, remains one of the few federally administered programs at a time when responsibility for other federal employment and training programs has been delegated to the state and local levels. Although the program is retained as a separate federally administered program in bills passed by the House and Senate to reform, consolidate, and block grant much of the nation's job training system, the Senate bill proposes several changes to better integrate the program with state and local workforce development initiatives. As the Congress begins its conference to unify the two bills, you requested information to help define the context within which the Job Corps program is currently operating at the state level.

This letter contains information on (1) the extent to which Job Corps participants are served in centers located within their state of residence and (2) the Job Corps program capacity within each state relative to the number of participants from that state. To develop this information, we used preliminary data from our ongoing study for you on the extent to which Job Corps centers serve participants in their own states. The information in this letter is based on our analysis of Job Corps' Student Pay, Allotment and Management Information System (SPAMIS), a database containing nationwide Job Corps data on all program terminees. We analyzed data for participants who left the program during program year 1993 (July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1994). We did not, however, verify the validity of Labor's database.

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MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED JOB CORPS TRAINING IN STATE OF RESIDENCE

Nationally, about 54 percent of the Job Corps participants in 1993 received training in the state where they lived,[1] but this differed substantially among the states (see enc. 1).[2] For example, 88 percent of Nevada residents participating in Job Corps were trained in Nevada, whereas only 16 percent of Illinois' participants were trained in Illinois. As shown in figure 1, over 80 percent of the residents from six states (Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, and Utah) who were participating in Job Corps received training in their own state. But in four states--Alaska,[3] Illinois, South Carolina, and Wisconsin--less than 20 percent of the states' Job Corps participants were trained in the Job Corps centers in their own state. Furthermore, six states did not have any Job Corps centers operating within their boundaries, so their participants had to attend training in other states.

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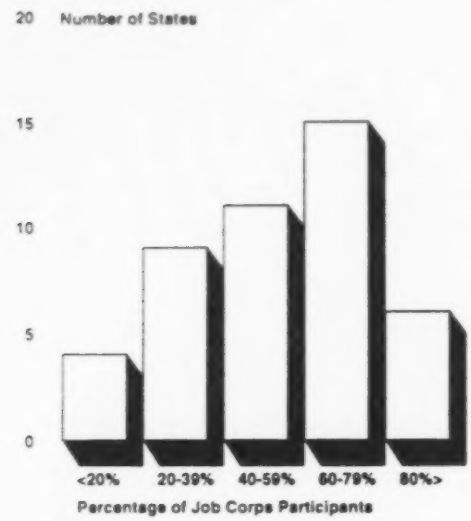
[1]The Job Corps legislation states that, except for good cause, a program enrollee is to be assigned to the center that is closest to the enrollee's home.

[2]Our analysis is based on Job Corps program data on participants from or attending programs in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[3]The Alaska Job Corps center, a relatively new center, did not begin enrolling participants until February 1994.

Figure 1: Percentage of Job Corps Participants Receiving Training in Their Own State



Note: Data do not include the six states that did not have any Job Corps centers.

JOB CORPS PROGRAM CAPACITY VARIED AMONG THE STATES

States varied substantially in terms of their Job Corps program capacity[4] as well as their ability to serve state residents. (See enc. 2.) For example, Kentucky had about 6,740 slots available within its Job Corps centers, but only 390 Kentucky residents were enrolled in the program and only 225 Kentucky residents actually received training in Kentucky. Conversely, Louisiana's program had about 804 available slots, but about 1,912 residents were enrolled in the program (690 of which were trained in Louisiana). As shown in figure 2, the number of Job Corps participants from six states (Kentucky, Oklahoma, Montana, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia) was less than half the capacity of these states' Job Corps centers. On the other hand, the number of participants from three states (Colorado, Louisiana, and South Carolina) was more than double the number of Job Corps slots available in each of these states.

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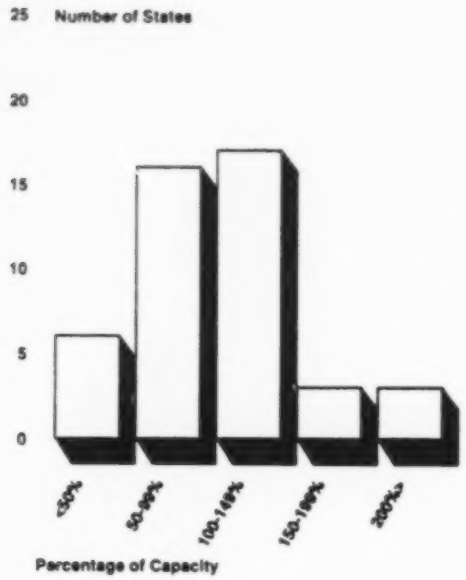
[4]We determined capacity by multiplying the total number of beds in each state's program centers by the average length of stay in the program by each state's participants in program year 1993. Because the Alaska center was not fully operational throughout program year 1993, we used Labor's national average to compute its capacity.

Figure 2: State Job Corps Participants With Respect to State Program Capacity



Note: Data do not include the six states that did not have any Job Corps centers.

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Job Corps program officials provided technical clarification on a draft of this letter and we have incorporated their comments where appropriate.

We are continuing our analysis of the Job Corps program data and will provide more detailed information to you in our forthcoming report. In the interim, if you need further assistance, please call Sigurd Nilsen at (202) 512-7003 or Wayne Sylvia at (617) 565-7492.

Sincerely yours,

Linda G. Morra
Director, Education and
Employment Issues

Enclosures - 2

ENCLOSURE 1

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED IN STATE, PROGRAM YEAR 1993

State	Number trained in state	Number trained out of state	Total	Percent trained in state
HI	168	11	179	94
NV	375	49	424	88
NY	2,560	371	2,931	87
MN	437	75	512	85
UT	626	137	763	82
MO	1,697	405	2,102	81
AZ	886	248	1,134	78
MA	626	185	811	77
CA	3,224	995	4,219	76
IA	360	116	476	76
OK	805	267	1,072	75
VT	114	38	152	75
ME	298	106	404	74
TX	3,511	1,414	4,925	71
NM	570	233	803	71
NB	284	118	402	71
NJ	784	368	1,152	68
OR	1,001	486	1,487	67
MI	879	438	1,317	67
MT	278	155	433	64
KS	358	234	592	60
PA	1,632	1,136	2,768	59
KY	225	165	390	58

ENCLOSURE 1

State	Number trained in state	Number trained out of state	Total	Percent trained in state
SD	203	149	352	58
MS	1,114	959	2,073	54
WA	852	820	1,672	51
GA	1,263	1,275	2,538	50
OH	957	988	1,945	49
TN	505	688	1,193	42
IN	330	471	801	41
AR	438	625	1,063	41
WV	134	193	327	41
NC	857	1,418	2,275	38
VA	713	1,229	1,942	37
LA	690	1,222	1,912	36
CO	280	502	782	36
ID	108	199	307	35
AL	443	887	1,330	33
FL	981	2,082	3,063	32
MD	505	1,173	1,678	30
DC	187	489	676	28
SC	275	1,294	1,569	18
WI	61	291	352	17
IL	285	1,473	1,758	16
AK	21	279	300	7
CT	0	429	429	0
DE	0	244	244	0
ND	0	225	225	0
NH	0	155	155	0
RI	0	154	154	0

ENCLOSURE 1

State	Number trained in state	Number trained out of state	Total	Percent trained in state
WY	0	168	168	0
Total	32,900	27,831	60,731	54

Note: Data are for 50 states and the District of Columbia.

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS IN JOB CORPS COMPARED WITH STATE PROGRAM CAPACITY, PROGRAM YEAR 1993

State	State program capacity	Number of state residents in Job Corps program	Percentage of state residents compared with capacity
SC	563	1,569	279
LA	804	1,912	238
CO	330	782	237
FL	1,621	3,063	189
ID	192	307	160
IL	1,146	1,758	153
NJ	808	1,152	143
CA	3,215	4,219	131
VA	1,498	1,942	130
AZ	886	1,134	128
KS	469	592	126
NC	1,872	2,275	122
SD	296	352	119
AL	1,157	1,330	115
TN	1,054	1,193	113
NB	356	402	113
MD	1,487	1,678	113
MS	1,936	2,073	107
WA	1,572	1,672	106
MI	1,254	1,317	105
MN	494	512	104
WI	347	352	101
OH	1,921	1,945	101

ENCLOSURE 2

State	State program capacity	Number of state residents in Job Corps program	Percentage of state residents compared with capacity
MO	2,117	2,102	99
IA	481	476	99
TX	5,197	4,925	95
NY	3,117	2,931	94
PA	3,209	2,768	86
AR	1,342	1,063	79
DC	871	676	78
GA	3,291	2,538	77
AK	398	300	75
NM	1,084	803	74
OR	2,034	1,487	73
ME	579	404	70
IN	1,149	801	70
HI	290	179	62
MA	1,479	811	55
NV	854	424	50
OK	2,357	1,072	45
MT	1,053	433	41
UT	2,204	763	35
VT	534	152	28
WV	1,232	327	27
KY	6,737	390	6
CT	0	429	0
DE	0	244	0
ND	0	225	0

ENCLOSURE 2

State	State program capacity	Number of state residents in Job Corps program	Percentage of state residents compared with capacity
NH	0	155	0
RI	0	154	0
WY	0	168	0
Total	66,890	60,731	91

Note: Data are for 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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